

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 19 are amended. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 19 can be found in the specification, for example, at paragraph [0052]. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Severson at the personal interview held October 6, 2007 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the Remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 5, 11 and 13-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,409,165 to Yamaoka et al. (hereinafter "Yamaoka") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,688,592 to Tan et al. (hereinafter "Tan"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the November 6, 2007 personal interview, Applicant respectfully submits that both Yamaoka and Tan, either alone, or in combination, fail to disclose a sheet feed cassette comprising an urging member that is deformed in association with the movement of the slide member, as now recited in independent claims 1 and 19.

The Office Action alleges that the rear support plate 70 and the restriction member 65 of Yamaoka correspond to the claimed urging member and slide member, respectively, as recited in independent claims 1 and 19. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that the rear support plate 70 (the alleged urging member) does not deform in association with a movement of the restriction member 65 (the alleged slide member). Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the Yamaoka fails to

teach or suggest that the rear support plate 70 of Yamaoka is even capable of deforming. Thus, Yamaoka fails disclose a sheet feed cassette comprising an urging member that is deformed in association with the movement of the slide member, as recited in independent claims 1 and 19

Additionally, and as discussed during the November 6, 2007 personal interview, Applicant respectfully submits that Tan fails to cure the deficiencies of Yamaoka. The Office Action acknowledges Yamaoka does not disclose a slide member that slides within a slide opening of the case in a width direction of the recording mediums, as recited in independent claim 1. However, the Office Action alleges that the projection 115 of Tan slides within a slide opening of the case in a width direction of the recording mediums, as recited in independent claims 1 and 19. Regardless of this assertion, Applicant respectfully submits that Tan fails to disclose any structure that can reasonably be considered to correspond to an urging member that is deformed in association with the movement of the projection 115 (the alleged slide member). Thus, Tan fails disclose a sheet feed cassette comprising an urging member that is deformed in association with the movement of the slide member, as recited in independent claims 1 and 19

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 19 are patentable over the combination of Yamaoka and Tan. Further, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, 6-10, 12, 18 and 20 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of independent claims 1 and 19, from which these claims variously depend, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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